



# KEYNOTE



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## AWARDS

E-mail apps/logs to Dennis K6DF  
<fistsawards@comcast.net>  
Written logs to M0AVW. No charges and  
no return envelope required.

**SUBS:** Email Keynote £5.00. UK mail £6.00, EEC mail £8.00 others £11.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS and sent to M0AVW (address on banner)

**Please** include your **CALLSIGN, name, FISTS No** on all correspondence and on the back of any cheques .

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## Another month comes and goes

Hello again, hope the weather isn't getting you down, I am not a lover of this hot weather and I am getting a little fed up of the high temperatures, I have a wall thermometer in the shack and it is reading over 30 deg C while I type this. A small building job to restore a old garage and out building has turned into a major rebuild, but once its finished I will have a nice new workshop to play in. My son had a few health problems of late and that on top of the building work has meant that I again have had very little time for radio again, in fact I'm hiding away from the XYL for a while to get this copy typed up! On a more positive side I am glad to report that my exams all went well and all have been passed, I still have my project left to do over the next year but if I just get a pass I will end up with a 2:1 honours degree but a reasonable pass will give me a 1st class Honours degree which is what I am now aiming for. I am currently employed on a 3 months contract in a local councils IT department but have a very good chance of being offered a permanent position there which would be just what I want, fingers crossed! If you recall from last months edition I will be going away on Holiday next month and so will not be around to produce Keynote for Sept, so the next edition will be out early Oct, I find that I am getting less and less articles sent to me for keynote so please don't let this hot weather put you off, write or email me with your articles and I will be happy to include them in the next edition.

## FISTS Forum

Mark (M0BLT) set up a Yahoo group forum for FISTS members to stay in touch with each other and to arrange skeds etc, this forum is really taking off now with around 150 members and growing all the time. Mark tells me that it's a busy group and as got many people on air ,

there seems many interested is slow CW and a number of members are offering CW practise on 80/40/30 m most nights. One thing I find strange is that we don't have any-one offering fast CW practise for members that want it, if your interested why not join the group, after all its free!

## Email or Paper Keynote?

It is becoming clear that we may have a little distribution problem, when I took over producing Keynote we had a distribution list being run from our friends downunder, I was given this list and found problems with yahoo since the list was so large that yahoo thought I was a spammer! I set up a Yahoo group called CW info and manually sent out invites to join this group to all that took email keynotes, it seems that not all members accepted this invite and so have been missing out on keynote. I have now got a new way of sending it out each month so if you know anyone that doesn't get their copy by email that should drop me a email with their FISTS number and email address and I will add them to the new list.

## Group Project

Well despite a initial good response to the idea of a club project kit for a Transceiver numbers fell when It became time to put hand in pocket and dig out the cash. Oh-well , we still have placed a order for the Small wonder labs SW+ kits but we have only had 2 people want the more advanced kit from QRP project so we have not been able to get these on order as a group purchase. If you are interested in this more advanced kit then im sorry to say you will have to order it yourself. Those that have ordered the SW+ I have been told that it will take about 3 weeks before Dave can ship them to us and then I find it takes around 10 days extra for them to get here. As soon as they do I will send them on with the extra options pack if you have ordered it and then the fun will start, I have order a 40m kit to go with the 80m one that I have just built.

## Notice anything different?

I have receive a number of comments that its hard to read Keynote due to the very small font size that I have been using, I must agree that the last three issues have been using a very small font and accept that for many it has been just to small, I hope this larger font size is a little easier on the eye and that together with the better print quality we now have will make it easier to read.

## Meet The Family

I know many people are interested in the Elecraft range of transceivers judging by the speed that all the leaflets go at the rallies! I have built all of the range and offer my views on each of the transceivers from a CW operators view point.

The most well know of the Elecraft range is the K2 its has been around for a long while now and offers a level of performance that even the top completion grade transceivers from yaesu ,icom and Kenwood struggle to match and when you consider that the K2 is a Kit that you can build and service yourself makes it even more amazing.

The K2 in most basic form covers 10-80m , and is CW only, gives out a max of 15w, for those that want more a topband module is available as is a 100 Watt PA Slab, auto atus, Noise blanker and even a DSP module (you can even fit a SSB board too) . I Have two K2's, one a QRP version and the other a 100watt with all options, I was worried

about building the kits as they are expensive , about £325 plus Vat and shipping for the basic kit and around £1000 for a full option version. Many may question the logic of building a kit that costs such a lot when a black box of good performance can be purchased for about the same price. Well I have owned all sorts of transceivers in the past, the main station was a Yaesu FT1000MP mk5 with full options before I built the K2, I was never really happy with the MP's sound on RX, I found it rather hollow and tiring to listen to for any period of time even with all the fancy features of the MP I found it was just not what I was after, I tried a friends K2 and found that the receiver was much quieter than the MP and I at first thought that the K2 must just be a little deaf and that's why it doesn't hear the noise that the MP seems to pickup but after measuring the sensitivity figures I can say that the K2 was more sensitive than the MP! I was hooked and it wasn't long before my order for my first K2 was placed. The Kit went together very well, I had one or two small questions that Elecrafts technical support guys answered very fast for me. It was a good experience building such a transceiver that taught me lots and left me feeling that I have a radio that I can service myself should the need arrive. The K2 is a pleasure to use, its has a very nice QSK system and a great keyer, I'm not going to go into great detail of the specifications but if you are interested in the K2 then go and have a read on the Elecraft web site, details at the end of this article.

The next Transceiver I built was the K1, it's a small radio that gives up to 5watts (well mine and everyone I have seen gives about 7 watts) The K1 has plug in band cards and can have 4 or 2 band cards fitted, mine has 40/30/20/17m's fitted on one card and 80/40m on another, it also has a built in Auto ATU and the option for a internal battery pack if so required, it makes a great little trail radio that despite its relatively simple design gives

good performance even when compared to expensive black boxes from the big three. I have found that the K1 does suffer from a small amount of drift from a cold start but after a 10 min warm up it seems to only suffer around 100Hz/hr drift which I have never found to be a problem in the real world. Building the K1 was also a good experience with little problem, the build is really the same as the K2 just less of it!

After playing with both kits for a while I can say that they are great performers, and if you are a dedicated CW only person you will be very pleased with the performance from

either kit but if you are a back-packer or camper you may find both of the sets a little large for your liking, that's where the final transceiver in their range comes in.



The third kit I built was the new KX-1, it's a dual band transceiver in its standard form on 40/20m , mine has the new 80/30m option too giving it 4 bands, its not much bigger than a packet of cigarettes but has a built in Auto ATU, Keyer, and battery pack. It really is a amazing bit of kit, the price to pay for such a small package is relatively low power, just over 1 watt

when running off the internal battery pack (6 x AA Cells) or about 3-4 watts from a external 13.8v supply. The Auto ATU is a little limited in range but a simple 26ft wire seems to give a good match on 40m and up and a 50ft wire seems to give me a match on 80m. it's a ideal set for back-packers that are concerned about weight and size but I find it does not have such a good rx side as the K1 and so is more of a compromise, but please don't get me wrong it works very well and the current drain is very low. I have used mine with the main station antenna and had good reports even at the 1-2 watt power levels, I do find that at night on 40m I can detect a small amount of broadcast band breakthrough that needs me to turn the RF Gain back down a little to compensate for. The Build of the KX1 was something else, it's a very compact board and needs a good eye and steady hand to build, it was not such an enjoyable build as the other two and I was glad to finish it. I was very pleased that it worked first time and the options of the ATU and the extra band module made me sweat too.

Each of these kits are suitable for different applications with some over lap. The K2 without doubt is the finest transceiver I have used and in my option takes some beating even for a contest rig, its small footprint makes it a ideal rig even for today's smaller shacks. The K1 is also a fine transceiver for home use, its 5-7 watts of output means its possible to make main contacts on all the bands it covers, with the main station antenna I could get a good match using the built in Auto ATU on all but 80m (most auto atu's find it hard to match my antenna on 80m) and it was pleasant to listen to for hours. The KX-1 did not perform as well as the K1 or K2, its clear that in reducing the size to fag packet dimensions performance suffered, but if your looking for a very small portable rig that covers 4 main HF bands you will find it hard to beat so I'm sure it will be a winner with the backpacking mob.

I have no connection with Elecraft other than being a very satisfied user and would have no worries about recommending their range to anyone that wants a high performance rig that can be built without a room full of test equipment, I am not a hard contester, just a sit back in the armchair sort of operator so before you rush out and place any order for a K2 please do your own research to make sure its what you want. The Elecraft web site has a wealth of information about building the Elecraft range and so start there.

More info at <http://www.elecraft.com>

### **Donington Radio Rally**

Well this is the last edition before the Castle Donington Radio Rally, we will be there for the 2 days of the show, I will have the three Elecraft radios and the Small wonder SW+80 which is our club project, it would be very nice to meet members so please call and say hello if you come to the show

### **The FISTS Web Site**

The Web site as been running for a few months now and contains some good stuff but its grown faster than I expected. I need to re-vamp the site and make it a little better on the eye. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see on it please drop me a line or email. I am still after more pictures of members and their shacks, the new web page (not on line yet) has only Peter G4LHI and myself so send your pictures in please.

The members lookup feature on the site is working well but the database is a little out of date and does not include all the new members that have joined us so I will be updating that soon. If you have not seen the web site yet then what are you waiting for ! <http://www.fists.co.uk>

### **Don't forget to renew your Subscription!**

Now I know Keynote had not been sent out for a while but now its Back, I have again sent out this one to all people on the FISTS list even if they have let their membership fees lapse , I can not continue to do this but just wanted everyone to know that we are back up and running. Please check the date on the address label on the envelope that this copy arrived in (or if you have already lost it drop me a email ) . we don't want to lose you ! If you are over due or close to the date get your cheques sent off, All cheques should be made payable to FISTS and sent to Mandy at

32 Woodford Walk,

Harewood Park,

Thornaby,

TS17 0LT. Or pay via Paypal to [subs@fists.co.uk](mailto:subs@fists.co.uk)

However you Pay please put your Name, Callsign, FISTS No on the back or in the message box if you pay via Paypal. Full details of new costs just under the banner box and on the web site.

If you really want to help FISTS out then change your method of receiving Keynote via email, you will get extras like the FISTS downunder and FISTS East Asia newsletters too.

We have had a few distribution problems the last few months but we are now getting on top of these and so the problems will be a thing of the past.

Why is this box blank? Because I need your input! Help keep FISTS and Keynote alive submit a article now!  
[m0bmn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:m0bmn@yahoo.co.uk)

### **A Note from Dick G3URA**

Just a quick line about the 'Morse School' idea and the One-a-day' challenge.

Like you say in Key Note, I don't think you would get enough people to attend a one-day 'school' to improve their CW - a far better way is your own 'One-a-day' challenge. Just try to have one CW QSO a day - it does not matter what band it is on, be it a ragchew or contest QSO, but just try and have one QSO each day. Before very long you will find that your CW speed, and confidence, has increased markedly. Yes, I know it's difficult and that you cannot do it while you are away on holiday with the XYL or because your firm has sent you to Timbuckthree for a meeting, but try and find time each day, be it first thing in the morning, or last thing at night, and see the difference it makes over a few short weeks . . . A good source of inspiration for the 'One-a-day' idea is John, K3WWP, who has at least One QSO a day, and, on 29th November this year will clock up 4500 consecutive days with at least one CW QSO.. If only I could do it! Keep up the good work.. 73s.. Dick.. G3URA..

### **From a post by Ralph, ZL2AOH**

"One of our Down Under members VK4BCM-Bevan-9053 is going to be staying in Godalming during September/October. He would like to eyeball with any FISTS members in the vicinity.

If anyone can help, please email me direct at [zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz) and I will make the necessary introductions."

Vy 73 de Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH

### **30m CW Trials**

A few members (Buck G0OYH #1078 and Mark M0CMQ ) to name a few have been trying to arrange a daily ragchew on 30m, the freq is 10.116Mhz so why not have a listen and give them a call.

### **July Ladder**

Well its been a bit quite this month a note from Peter G4LHI read "Calling ALL Sunday PM Where are all the FISTS Members gone??? No sign" lets hope that we get a bit more action next month!

### **FISTS Rally Dates**

There will be a FISTS table at the following Rallies so if your going come and say hello and sign the Visitor Book.. 8th/9th September Donington Radio Rally, Castle Donington, Leicester. 7th Oct G-QRP Club Rally, Rochdale.

## Major Changes in October

I guess most of you know about the changes to our licence's and the idea of a licence for life without the fees but from October Ofcom will be dropping the need for us to maintain a log book. What do you think about that? Is it a good move? There are also other changes to do with remote control and unattended operation. It will be well worth all of us that can take the opportunity to read the full details of these changes on the Ofcom web site.

[www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimelicence](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimelicence)

If you have any comments its still not to late to send them to Ofcom so do take a look it WILL effect you.

## Look Out For the Scammers!

I have been sent a warning about a scam that is just aimed at radio Ham's, I was not going to pass this on as I hear many such stories in a month but the RSGB are also passing this warning on so I guess it must have some truth behind it.

The scam works like this

Phone rings you answer and here recorded message

"Hello this is Dave from XYZ deliveries , we are trying to deliver a radio to you. Please call us to arrange delivery on "0123456789" Thanks You"

The number is a high rate premium number and guess what! No radio will be waiting for you either.

## Ladder results

I will be including a update for the ladder results every two months from now on, The results take up a lot of space and so this makes more sense, if you need to know the current situation contact Bob the contest manager.

### ACTIVITY LADDER.

January 06 to December 06.

To be run on the last weekend of every month.

Times 0700 UTC Sat to 1900 UTC Sun.

Frequencies All licensed amateur bands except the WARC bands.

RETURNS/SCORING. Returns are to be either a maximum total 8 hour continuous or 2 x 4 hour continuous periods Only, taken from within the 36 hour operating time. Scoring; 3 points for a Fist Club Station, 2 points for a Fist member,

1 point for a non-member. A station can only count once on each monthly weekend.

LOGS; to include; CALL/NAME/QTH/QRG/RST/TIME/ FIST No or NM/POINTS SCORED.

PLEASE vacate or pass on the FIST calling frequency after 5

continuos QSO's or QSY off the calling frequency.

All returns are to be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the next month.

DATES; 28/29 Jan. 25/26 Feb. 25/26 March. 29/30 April. 27/28 May. 24/25 June. 29/30 July. 26/27 Aug. 23/24 Sept. 28/29 Oct. 25/26 Nov. 30/31 Dec.

## The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest

The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest will be 2300Z September 8 to 2300Z September 10. Everyone is welcome to participate, but only the logs of those using straight keys for all claimed contacts are eligible for awards. **BANDS:**

Operation is limited to 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. No WARC's.

Work stations only once per band.

### ENTRY CLASSES:

There are three entry classes:

QRO: QRP: Club: Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO.

An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

**CALL:** CQ FS (short for fists straight = straight key)

**EXCHANGE:** RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number (or power output for non-FISTS).

### MULTIPLIERS:

Each U.S. State and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each no matter how many times worked.

### SCORING:

Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points.

Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points.

Final score is total QSO point's time's multipliers.

Logs within 30 days to Lee Hallin N7NU 3413 Walton Ln, Eugene OR 97408

Or email (ADIF, Excel or ASCII format) to [hallin-L@lanecc.edu](mailto:hallin-L@lanecc.edu) Logs must indicate type of key used.

### The Last Word

Well as I write this the weather is just cooling down a little which I am very pleased about! Who knows, I may even be able to get into the shack soon!. Thoughts are turning to family Holidays and my family and I will be going away soon. If you recall the last edition I said that I would not be producing a September issue and this will still be the case, in fact this months issue as caused problems due to a lack of articles from you the readers. Remember its your club, I am meant to be the editor not the writer of all the articles so come on, put pen to paper or finger to keyboard.

Anyway I guess that many of you are also going away on holiday too and so may I take this opportunity to wish you well and hope you all have a safe trip. If possible take a portable rig with you and have a bash if you get the chance and send in your holiday radio stories when you get home.